

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A docking station for a mobile computing device, comprising:
a base;
a holder for physically and electrically connecting the mobile computing device to the base; and
a telephone, the telephone being capable of directly dialing a number stored in a database on the mobile computing device when the mobile computing device is connected to the docking station, the telephone being capable of dialing a number through operation of the telephone keypad when the mobile computing device is not docked.
2. The docking station of claim 1, further comprising a hinge pin, the hinge pin forming an electrical interface to the base, wherein the holder is physically and electrically connected to the hinge pin, the hinge pin allowing the holder to rotate about an axis of the hinge pin.
3. The docking station of claim 1, wherein the holder is a detachable holder.
4. The docking station of claim 3, wherein the detachable holder is interchangeable with at least one other detachable holder for at least one other mobile computing device of a different form or type.
5. The docking station of claim 4, wherein the detachable holder and the at least one other detachable holder includes an outside portion and an inside portion, the outside portion providing an electrical connection to an electrical interface of the docking station, the inside portion providing an electrical connection to a unique electrical interface of the mobile computing device and the at least one other mobile computing device, respectively.
6. The docking station of claim 1, further comprising a printer for printing data stored on at least one of the mobile computing device and the docking station.
7. The docking station of claim 1, further comprising a digital answering machine, the digital answering machine being capable of functioning as a standalone answering machine when the mobile computing device is not docked in the docking station, the digital answering machine being capable of storing messages on the mobile computing device when the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station.
8. The docking station of claim 1, further comprising at least one peripheral connector for electrically connecting at least one peripheral device to the docking station, the at least one peripheral connector allowing communication between the mobile computing device and the at least one peripheral device.

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9. The docking station of claim 1, further comprising a data modem, the data modem enabling the mobile computing device to access the Internet.

10. The docking station of claim 1, further comprising a fax modem, the fax modem enabling the mobile computing device to fax data to a receiver over a public switched telephone network.

11. The docking station of claim 1, further comprising a keyboard for quick and easy entry of data to the mobile computing device.

12. The docking station of claim 11, wherein the keyboard interfaces with the docking station via an infrared transceiver.

13. The docking station of claim 11, wherein the keyboard is wireless, the keyboard interfacing with the docking station via electromagnetic waves.

14. The docking station of claim 9, wherein the data modem is a high bandwidth data modem.

15. The docking station of claim 8, further comprising at least one flash card connector for at least one flash card, the flash card containing a driver for the at least one peripheral, the driver being suitable for a particular mobile computing device, wherein docking station software allows the mobile computing device to store the driver in the memory of the mobile computing device to communicate with the at least one peripheral while the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station.

16. The docking station of claim 15, wherein the docking station software allows the mobile computing device to automatically delete the at least one driver from the memory of the mobile computing device when the mobile computing device is disconnected from the docking station.

17. The docking station of claim 1, wherein docking station software is automatically activated whenever the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station.

18. The docking station of claim 17, wherein the docking station sends a unique identifying signal to the mobile computing device when the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station and, wherein the docking station software enables the mobile computing device to recognize the docking station by detecting and recognizing the unique identifying signal.

19. The docking station of claim 8, wherein the at least one peripheral device is a printer and, wherein data stored or received by the mobile computing device or the docking station may be printed on the printer.

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20. The docking station of claim 1, further comprising a printer, wherein data stored or received by the mobile computing device or the docking station may be printed on the printer.

21. A docking station for a mobile computing device, the mobile computing device having a rechargeable battery, comprising:

a base;

a holder for docking the mobile computing device in the docking station, the holder providing an electrical connection between the mobile computing device and the docking station;

a charger for recharging the rechargeable battery; and

a telephone, the telephone being capable of directly dialing a number stored in a database on the mobile computing device when the mobile computing device is connected to the docking station, the telephone being capable of dialing a number through operation of the telephone keypad when the mobile computing device is not docked.

22. The docking station of claim 21, wherein the holder is electrically connected to a hinge pin, the hinge pin allowing the holder to rotate about an axis of the hinge pin, the hinge pin forming an electrical interface to the docking station.

23. The docking station of claim 21, wherein the holder is a detachable holder.

24. The docking station of claim 23, wherein the detachable holder is interchangeable with at least one other detachable holder for at least one other mobile computing device of a different form or type.

25. The docking station of claim 24, wherein the detachable holder and the at least one other detachable holder includes an outside portion and an inside portion, the outside portion providing an electrical connection to an electrical interface of the docking station, the inside portion providing an electrical connection to a unique electrical interface of the mobile computing device and the at least one other mobile computing device, respectively.

26. The docking station of claim 21, further comprising a printer for printing data stored on the mobile computing device.

27. The docking station of claim 21, further comprising a digital answering machine, the digital answering machine being capable of functioning as a standalone answering machine when the mobile computing device is not docked in the docking station, the digital answering machine being capable of storing messages on the mobile computing device when the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station.

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28. The docking station of claim 21, further comprising at least one peripheral connector for electrically connecting at least one peripheral device to the docking station, the at least one peripheral connector allowing communication between the mobile computing device and the at least one peripheral device for control of the at least one peripheral device and for data exchange between the peripheral device and the mobile computing device.

29. The docking station of claim 21, further comprising a data modem, the data modem enabling the mobile computing device to access the Internet.

30. The docking station of claim 21, further comprising a fax modem, the fax modem enabling the mobile computing device to fax data to a receiver over a public switched telephone network.

31. The docking station of claim 21, further comprising a keyboard for quick and easy entry of data to the mobile computing device.

32. The docking station of claim 31, wherein the keyboard interfaces with the docking station via an infrared transceiver.

33. The docking station of claim 31, wherein the keyboard is wireless, the keyboard interfacing with the docking station via electromagnetic waves.

34. The docking station of claim 29, wherein the data modem is a high bandwidth data modem.

35. The docking station of claim 28, further comprising at least one flash card connector for at least one flash card, the flash card containing a driver for the at least one peripheral, the driver being suitable for a particular mobile computing device, wherein docking station software allows the mobile computing device to store the driver in the memory of the mobile computing device to communicate with the at least one peripheral while the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station.

36. The docking station of claim 35, wherein the docking station software allows the mobile computing device to automatically delete the at least one driver from the memory of the mobile computing device when the mobile computing device is disconnected from the docking station.

37. The docking station of claim 21, wherein docking station software is automatically activated whenever the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station.

38. The docking station of claim 37, wherein the docking station sends a unique identifying signal to the mobile computing device when the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station and, wherein the docking station software enables the mobile

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computing device to recognize the docking station by detecting and recognizing the unique identifying signal.

39. The docking station of claim 28, wherein the at least one peripheral device is a printer and, wherein data stored or received by the mobile computing device or the docking station may be printed on the printer.

40. The docking station of claim 21, further comprising a printer, wherein data stored or received by the mobile computing device or the docking station may be printed on the printer.

41. A docking station for a mobile computing device, the mobile computing device having a rechargeable battery, comprising:

a base;

a holder for docking the mobile computing device in the docking station, the holder providing an electrical connection between the mobile computing device and the docking station;

a charger for recharging the rechargeable battery;

a telephone, the telephone being capable of directly dialing a number stored in a database on the mobile computing device when the mobile computing device is connected to the docking station, the telephone being capable of dialing a number through operation of the telephone keypad when the mobile computing device is not docked;

a digital answering machine, the digital answering machine being capable of functioning as a standalone answering machine when the mobile computing device is not docked in the docking station, the digital answering machine being capable of storing messages on the mobile computing device when the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station;

a printer; and

a modem, wherein the base, the holder, the charger, the telephone, the printer and the modem are integral to the docking station.

42. The docking station of claim 41, wherein the detachable holder is electrically connected to a hinge pin, the hinge pin allowing the holder to rotate about an axis of the hinge pin, the hinge pin forming an electrical interface to the docking station.

43. The docking station of claim 41, wherein the holder is a detachable holder.

44. The docking station of claim 43, wherein the detachable holder is interchangeable with at least one other detachable holder for at least one other mobile computing device of one of a different form and type.

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45. The docking station of claim 44, wherein the detachable holder and the at least one other detachable holder includes an outside portion and an inside portion, the outside portion providing an electrical connection to an electrical interface of the docking station, the inside portion providing an electrical connection to a unique electrical interface of the mobile computing device and the at least one other mobile computing device, respectively.

46. The docking station of claim 41, wherein the printer is for printing data stored on mobile computing device or the docking station.

47. The docking station of claim 41, further comprising at least one peripheral connector for electrically connecting at least one peripheral device to the docking station, the at least one peripheral connector allowing communication between the mobile computing device and the at least one peripheral device.

48. The docking station of claim 41, wherein the data modem enables the mobile computing device to access the Internet.

49. The docking station of claim 41, wherein the modem enables the mobile computing device to fax data to a receiver over a public switched telephone network.

50. The docking station of claim 41, further comprising a keyboard for quick and easy entry of data to the mobile computing device.

51. The docking station of claim 41, wherein the keyboard interfaces with the docking station via an infrared transceiver.

52. The docking station of claim 41, wherein the keyboard is wireless, the keyboard interfacing with the docking station via electromagnetic waves.

53. The docking station of claim 48, wherein the data modem is a high bandwidth data modem.

54. The docking station of claim 47, further comprising at least one flash card connector for at least one flash card, the flash card containing a driver for the at least one peripheral, the driver being suitable for a particular mobile computing device, wherein docking station software allows the mobile computing device to store the driver in the memory of the mobile computing device to communicate with the at least one peripheral while the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station.

55. The docking station of claim 54, wherein the docking station software allows the mobile computing device to automatically delete the at least one driver from the memory of the mobile computing device when the mobile computing device is disconnected from the docking station.

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56. The docking station of claim 41, wherein docking station software is automatically activated whenever the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station.

57. The docking station of claim 56, wherein the docking station sends a unique identifying signal to the mobile computing device when the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station and, wherein the docking station software enables the mobile computing device to recognize the docking station by detecting and recognizing the unique identifying signal.

58. The docking station of claim 47, wherein the at least one peripheral device is a printer and, wherein data stored or received by the mobile computing device or the docking station may be printed on the printer.

59. A docking station for a mobile computing device having a rechargeable battery comprising;

a base;

a holder for physically and electrically connecting the mobile computing device to the base;

a charger for recharging the rechargeable battery;

a modem; and

at least one of a phone and a fax data modem connector for connecting the docking station to a telephone wall outlet.

60. The docking station of claim 59, wherein the holder is electrically connected to a hinge pin, the hinge pin allowing the holder to rotate about an axis of the hinge pin, the hinge pin forming an electrical interface to the docking station.

61. The docking station of claim 49, wherein the holder is a detachable holder.

52. The docking station of claim 61, wherein the detachable holder is interchangeable with at least one other detachable holder for at least one other mobile computing device of a different form or type.

63. The docking station of claim 62, wherein the detachable holder and the at least one other detachable holder includes an outside portion and an inside portion, the outside portion providing an electrical connection to an electrical interface of the docking station, the inside portion providing an electrical connection to a unique electrical interface of the mobile computing device and the at least one other mobile computing device, respectively.

64. The docking station of claim 59, further comprising a printer for printing data stored on the mobile computing device.

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65. The docking station of claim 59, further comprising a digital answering machine, the digital answering machine being capable of functioning as a standalone answering machine when the mobile computing device is not docked in the docking station, the digital answering machine being capable of storing messages on the mobile computing device when the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station.

66. The docking station of claim 59, further comprising at least one peripheral connector for electrically connecting at least one peripheral device to the docking station, the at least one peripheral connector allowing communication between the mobile computing device and the at least one peripheral device for control of the at least one peripheral device and for data exchange between the peripheral device and the mobile computing device.

67. The docking station of claim 59, further comprising a data modem, the wherein the modem is a data modem enabling the mobile computing device to access the Internet.

68. The docking station of claim 59, further comprising a fax modem, the wherein the modem is a fax modem enabling the mobile computing device to fax data to a receiver over a public switched telephone network.

69. The docking station of claim 59, further comprising a keyboard for quick and easy entry of data to the mobile computing device.

70. The docking station of claim 69, wherein the keyboard interfaces with the docking station via an infrared transceiver.

71. The docking station of claim 69, wherein the keyboard is wireless, the keyboard interfacing with the docking station via electromagnetic waves.

72. The docking station of claim 67, wherein the data modem is a high bandwidth data modem.

73. The docking station of claim 66, further comprising at least one flash card connector for at least one flash card, the flash card containing a driver for the at least one peripheral, the driver being suitable for a particular mobile computing device, wherein docking station software allows the mobile computing device to store the driver in the memory of the mobile computing device to communicate with the at least one peripheral while the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station.

74. The docking station of claim 73, wherein the docking station software allows the mobile computing device to automatically delete the at least one driver from the memory of the mobile computing device when the mobile computing device is disconnected from the docking station.

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75. The docking station of claim 59, wherein docking station software is automatically activated whenever the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station.

76. The docking station of claim 75, wherein the docking station sends a unique identifying signal to the mobile computing device when the mobile computing device is docked in the docking station and, wherein the docking station software enables the mobile computing device to recognize the docking station by detecting and recognizing the unique identifying signal.

77. The docking station of claim 66, wherein the at least one peripheral device is a printer and, wherein data stored or received by the mobile computing device or the docking station may be printed on the printer.

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